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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**South Dakota Airmen return from Iraq**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – More than 275 members of the 114th Fighter Wing, South Dakota Air National Guard, returned home to Sioux Falls on Friday, Sept. 26 at 11 a.m. CST, after being deployed for the past several months in support of the United States Air Force's Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) rotation plan.

The Airmen were deployed for varying lengths of time to Joint Base Balad, Iraq supporting Combat Air Force operations. All South Dakota F-16 Fighting Falcon jets that deployed to Iraq in early June also returned to Joe Foss Field on Friday.

Earlier this month, over 45 Airmen returned from duty in Kyrgyzstan, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar and Germany. These Airmen also deployed in support of both the AEF and Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS) rotation plans.

An additional eight members of the South Dakota Air National Guard will remain deployed at bases throughout Southwest Asia during the fall of 2008.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks on America, more than two-thirds of the South Dakota Air National Guard's 1,023 members have actively supported the Global War on Terrorism either at home or abroad in 15 countries.

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